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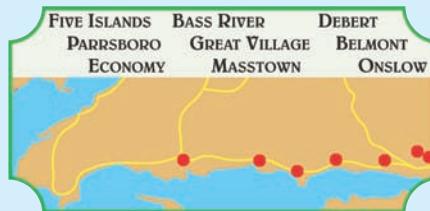
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The Shoreline Journal

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Heating Program Expanded

By Maurice Rees

It was a Christmas present, which came early, but can not be accessed until January 30, 2023. If your household income is \$85,000 or less, you can apply for a Heating Assistance Rebate of \$1,000. Another present announced by Premier Houston is increasing support to vulnerable Nova Scotians. All households receiving income assistance will get an additional one-time payment of \$250 prior to Christmas.

The Province is providing more help to Nova Scotians struggling with the rising cost

of living.

As part of a \$100-million effort to help low- and middle-income Nova Scotians with home heating, more people than ever before will be eligible for the Heating Assistance Rebate Program (HARP) this year. The amount per household will also increase for this year.

"The inflationary pressures we're seeing across the country and around the world are making life harder right here in Nova Scotia," said Premier Tim Houston. "We know many families are struggling to heat their homes and we want to

help. This investment will help many more Nova Scotians stay warm this winter."

The HARP rebate will increase this winter from \$200 to \$1,000. Households with an income of up to \$85,000 will be eligible. Applications for the expanded program will open January 30.

Anyone who has already qualified for a HARP rebate this year will automatically receive an additional payment in the new year.

The Province is also increasing support to vulnerable Nova Scotians. Before Christmas, all households receiving

income assistance will get an additional one-time payment of \$250. Full-time foster families will receive \$1,000.

The government will also provide \$8.7 million in grants this month to community partner organizations across Nova Scotia, including: \$3 million for the Disability Support Program residential facilities and child and youth caring programs that support children in the care of the minister of Community Services; \$3 million for food banks and organizations involved in food security, including Feed Nova Scotia; \$2.6 million for 26 family resource centres and \$100,000 to provide \$10,000 each to 10 transition houses.

There is no need for people or organizations to apply to receive these funds, except for new HARP applicants. Full details are available at: <https://novascotia.ca/news/docs/2022/12/14/cost-of-living-support-for-nova-scotians.pdf>

Some Quick Facts: - the \$250 payment to income assistance recipients includes Disability Support Program participants who receive income support and those receiving the essentials allowance; this payment, along with the \$1,000 to foster families for winter clothing, holiday meals and gifts, is expected to cost about \$6.7 million.

Combined funding for HARP, the assistance programs and grants to community organizations is \$115.4-million

United Way on the move

United Way of Colchester County has relocated to the Marigold Centre. The mailing address remains the same at: P.O. Box 32, Truro, NS B2N 5B6. The physical location of the office is: 605 Prince Street, Truro NS B2N 1G2

Re-advertising for Planner

Colchester's Recruitment efforts have been unsuccessful to fill a vacancy for a Planner. Re-advertising of the position will commence immediately with the hope it will attract new candidates.



The huge smile of Elsie-Mae Wells says it all! As Santa arrives in Bass River- members of the Bass River Fire Brigade hosted a meet & greet for local children with the jolly old fellow himself on Saturday, Dec. 10th. See the photos on page 2 of this Shoreline Journal. (Harrington Photo)

Community Development – Recreation

(Editor's note: this is the first of six Community Development reports from Paul Smith included in this Shoreline Journal. Other reports appear on pages 3, 6, 19, and 20.)

By Paul Smith
RECREATION SERVICES
Programs

• The Recreation Department will have nomination forms for Volunteer Nomination available at the Municipal Office and on the website by mid-December and will receive nominations until the end of February 2023. Council

can help reach out to potential candidates in respective communities until this time.

- Cara Carruthers-Fury of Tatamagouche, NS, was the 2022 Provincial Volunteer Award Recipient for Colchester County. The Municipality is fortunate to have Cara and so many other wonderful volunteers supporting Colchester County. (see photo on page 3)
- The Department will be coordinating the next round of Non-Profit Grant and Community Event Grant applications with a deadline set for nominations by January 31, 2023. Meeting

continued on page 3

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Craig Soontiens, sales manager of Payworks, sponsored the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce's '12 days of Local' box and stopped by the office to help to team pack 200 of them ready for distribution mid-December. (Submitted photo)



Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce worked hard to organize and get sponsorship for each box packed with Local Products. (Submitted photo)

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